

identify the technological gaps for proper exploitation of the Western off-shore fields etc.

Setting up of Power Grid/Super Thermal Power Station

711. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA:
SHRI THOMAS HANSDA:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposed to set up some new power projects in Bihar like Karnataka with foreign capital investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to set up a Super Thermal Power Station at Tandva;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also contemplating to set up power grids in tribal areas of the State; and

(f) if so, the time by which these are likely to be set-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposal to set up North Karanpura Super Thermal Power project (2x500 MW) at Tandwa in Hazaribagh district of Bihar by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) was considered. However, the proposal could not be processed for investment approval because of rejection of the site due to its close proximity to reserved and protected forests, objections raised by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) in having this project in the DVC area, non-resolution of the issue of construction of a dam by Government of Bihar for supply of make-up water to the project, inadequate demand and lack of transmission and distribution system in the region etc.

(e) and (f) At present Powergrid Corporation of India has two 400 KV transmission lines viz., Durgapur-Jamshedpur and Jamshedpur-Rourkela in the Jharkhand area of Bihar. There are also two sub-stations of 400 KV viz one at Jamshedpur and other at Rourkela. No further lines are contemplated for setting up at present.

Below Poverty Line

712. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 39.28 percent rural people of Western Rajasthan are living below poverty line;

(b) if so, whether the Government intends to formulate some crash programme especially for rural poor to improve their living conditions;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to declare "Dhanis" and "Hamlets" of desert area as Revenue villages to enable them to reap the benefits of development which is presently restricted to Revenue villages only; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) According to the estimates of NSSO household consumer expenditure survey for 1987-88, the rural poverty ratio for Rajasthan is 26%. No separate estimate has been made for Western Rajasthan.

(b) The main focus of IRDP is giving employment to the target group of people who are below poverty line. All the blocks of the country including Western Rajasthan are covered under IRDP. It is an on-going programme.

(c) and (d) Under programmes of Rural Water Supply and Rural Sanitation, facilities are provided to "Dhanis" and "Hamlets" as per the Annual Action Plan prepared by the State Governments.

In order to enable the inhabitants of "Dhanis" and "Hamlets" of remote areas to benefit under IRDP, it is stated in the guidelines that the priority list of poor families should be prepared by BDOs giving special emphasis to outlying hamlets and nomadic families.

Development of Backward Districts

713. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any Programme for the development of backward districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Planning and development of an area is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Planning Commission provides assistance to the States, including Uttar Pradesh, in overcoming the problems of backwardness through Special Area Programmes in addition to providing weightage for backwardness in the modified Gadgil formula approved by NDC in 1991 for normal Central Assistance for State Government's Plan.

Employment to Flood Affected Persons

714. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: